

## B. G. HUBBELL WARNS CHICAGO AGAINST 'PHONE DEAL

Chicago was warned against allowing the Bell telephone trust to gobble the automatic company by B. G. Hubbell, president of the Federal Telephone & Telegraph Company, when he resumed the stand in the hearing of the government's suit against the American Telephone & Telegraph Co.

"Chicago business should put up an organized fight against such a merger," said Mr. Hubbell. "They would be foolish to permit it. The merger would destroy competition here in Chicago and place your citizens at the mercy of the mighty American Telephone & Telegraph Company. Without competition the company would boost rates. The merger would also do away with the incentive to increase efficiency and the entire service will suffer."

Mr. Hubbell gave further details of the scheme fostered by the Morgan firm and other Eastern capitalists to gobble up the entire service of the nation.

Hubbell charged that the Bell company absorbed a number of independent companies by secretly purchasing them and then giving the impression that they were competing companies.

"The Bell company is trying to control all manufacturing of independent telephone and telegraph equipment in an effort to raise prices to an exorbitant level," said Mr. Hubbell.

The efforts of Attorneys Pillsbury and Smith, representing the 'phone trust, failed to shake his story of the contemplated monopoly.

"Morally and economically, it is wrong for one set of men to control the transmission of thought of 90,000,000 people," Mr. Hubbell said, while on the stand. "The same is true with the railroads. I should seriously object to the government owning all the telephones in the country. But I would prefer the government to private individuals.

Hubbell then reviewed the testimony he gave the day previous concerning the details of the gigantic merger of thirty independent companies by the Bell trust. The plans for this merger were worked out, Hubbell charged, by Theo. N. Vall and H. P. Davison, representing the J. Pierpont Morgan interests.

"When the Bell trust acquired an independent company they allowed the service to deteriorate in order to discredit independents," was one of Hubbell's statements.

Counsel for the trust asked Hubbell why he came here to testify against the Bell company.

"The Independent telephone officials have pledged themselves to see that the Interstate Commerce Commission and the government at Washington have full knowledge of the telephone situation," answered Hubbell. "This is the first chance we have had to tell what we know about the workings of the Bell company at an impartial hearing. Later Hubbell said: "The Bell company admitted that it was the severe competition of the independents in certain parts of the country that was behind their desire to merge thirty of the independent companies."

## —o—o—o— BITS OF NEWS

Hannish jury completed today. Court adjourned until Monday.

W. L. O'Connell, county treasurer, denies accusation of Chicago Bureau of Public Efficiency.

Madison, Wis. — Mrs. Adolph School, whose husband was scalded to death in boiler which he was repairing in factory of U. S. Sugar Co. two weeks ago, was awarded \$3,000.

Washington.—The currency bill was returned to the senate by the senate banking committee.

Danville, Ill.—John C. Johnson, head of White Horse Army Industrial School, negro training institution, served with 14 warrants on 14 charges.